

# The State CSBG Director's Digest

April 27, 2010

## In This Issue:

[Resources \(4\)](#)

[Publications \(3\)](#)

## NASCSP's Mission:

*"Building capacity in States to respond to poverty issues."*

## Quick Links:

[NASCSP](#)

[CSBG IS Survey Submission](#)

[ROMA Message Board](#)

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The State CSBG Director's Digest is a daily publication that brings you timely information about funding opportunities, resources, events, and publications that may be of interest to the CSBG network.

The Digest will be taking a brief break starting tomorrow, and will return on Wednesday, May 5th 2010.

## RESOURCES

### Podcast: Transforming Rental Assistance

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

In this podcast, Keri fulton and Will Fischer will discuss the President's plan to preserve affordable housing. [Learn more...](#)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Helping High School Dropouts Improve Their Prospects

Future of Children Policy Brief

Dropping out of high school has serious long-term consequences not only for individuals but also for society. According to expert estimates, between 3.5 million and 6 million young Americans between the ages of 16 and 24 are school dropouts. Lowering the number of adolescents who fail to finish high school and helping those who drop out get back on track must be a major policy goal for our nation. In this policy brief we focus primarily on how best to provide youngsters who have dropped out of school a second chance, though we also give some attention to dropout prevention (we do not tackle the topic of high school reform more broadly). [Learn more...](#)

### America COMPETES Act May Include Provision for Innovation Clusters

Brookings

For years now we and many others (ranging from the Harvard strategy guru Michael Porter, the Council on Competitiveness, and innovation scholar Rob Atkinson to the National Governor's Association, the Rural Policy Institute, Stu Rosenfeld, the National Academies, and the Center for American Progress) have been urging that greater attention be paid to the crucial role that regional industry or "innovation" clusters can play in enhancing economic performance. The U.S., we have pointed out, lags other nations in fostering these distributed, "bottom-up" systems of business development, innovation, and talent matching. The time has come, we have kept saying, for America to make regional industry networks a defining aspect of the nation's efforts to catalyze the next era of high-quality job creation and growth. [Learn more...](#)

Thank you for reading the State CSBG Director's Digest! We are committed to providing you with relevant and helpful information. If you have any comments or requests regarding this publication, please [contact us!](#)

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[www.nascsp.org](http://www.nascsp.org)